

## I-84, Eagle Road Westbound Off-ramp to be widened

The Idaho Transportation Department will begin construction soon on the next improvement for Eagle Road. The project will widen the westbound I-84 off-ramp to Eagle Road. Construction will begin in late March and end in late 2007.

More information about the project is inside this newsletter.

#### For more information:

Visit the ITD Web site at www.itd.idaho.gov and click on Get Involved, Southwest Idaho and I-84, Eagle Road Westbound Off-ramp Project. Call ITD Public Affairs at 334-8003. • E-mail comments@itd.idaho.gov.



# Eagle Road Improvement Project

SPRING 2007

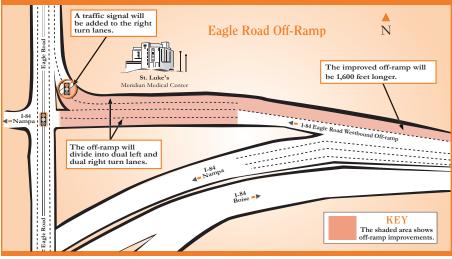
### Construction to begin on next improvement for Eagle Road

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) will begin construction this spring to widen and improve the I-84 westbound off-ramp at Eagle Road. The project is designed to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow near the off-ramp.

The improvements also will reduce the amount of traffic backing up onto the interstate shoulder while exiting I-84. Approximately 22,000 vehicles use the off-ramp every

day. Construction will begin in late March and end in late 2007.

The Eagle Road Westbound Off-ramp project is being funded through Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE) bonds. These bonds use future federal highway funds to construct needed highway projects sooner than through the traditional pay-as-you-go method.



A map of the planned improvements for the I-84 Eagle Road Westbound Off-ramp (exit 46). Construction will begin in late March, and end in late 2007

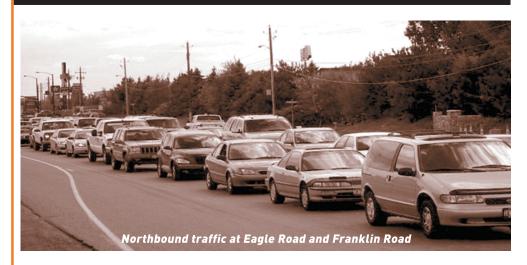
#### What to expect during construction:

- The off-ramp will remain open at all times. Motorists should, however, plan extra time when traveling in the project area, or consider an alternate route.
- The shoulder of westbound I-84 will be closed to exiting vehicles during some construction.
- During the final phase, westbound I-84 will be reduced from four to three lanes in the project area.
- Some nighttime work is expected to minimize traffic impacts during peak travel times.
- Construction updates will be available through ITD's 511 service (call 511, or visit 511.idaho.gov).

### ITD anticipates construction will occur in four phases:

- The westbound off-ramp will be widened on the
- 2 The westbound off-ramp will be widened on the
- 3 The island at the intersection of the off-ramp and Eagle Road will be reconstructed.
- The new off-ramp lane will be extended 1,600 feet along I-84 to the Ridenbaugh Canal.

## Eagle Road Improvement Project



#### Background

ITD began the Eagle Road Arterial Study in 2003 due to growing development and traffic volumes along Eagle Road. The purpose of the study was to determine ways to increase safety, manage traffic more efficiently and improve Eagle Road's appearance between the I-84 off-ramps and Idaho 44 (State Street).

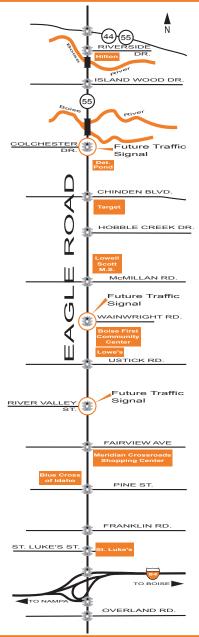
Extensive public input from residents, commuters and businesses during the study consistently reflected the public's desire to improve traffic flow, safety and the look of the corridor. When the study was completed, ITD moved into the design phase. This phase is called the Eagle Road Improvement Project. It includes specific improvements that were determined with significant public input.

#### These improvements are complete:

- Widening of northbound Eagle Road between I-84 and Franklin Road
- Final design of the current I-84, Eagle Westbound Off-ramp project
- A new traffic signal at Hobble Creek Drive

#### The following improvements are being designed for construction:

- Increased coordination between traffic signals using updated technology and signal systems (implementation expected in 2008)
- Pavement rehabilitation between I-84 and Fairview Avenue on northbound and southbound Eagle Road (construction expected in 2010)



Preliminary design has been completed for other improvements, including:

#### Safety

- Median barriers with periodic breaks
- Pedestrian/bicycle pathways where desired
- Increased lighting for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists

#### Roadway

- Dual left-turn lanes at most major intersections
- · Safer U-turn capabilities
- Right-turn lanes
- Curb and gutter along entire length of Eagle Road

#### **Technology**

New traffic signals at River Valley Street,
Wainwright Road and Colchester Drive

#### **Beautification**

- Landscaping along both sides of the road and in the median where desired
- Decorative lighting as desired by the local cities (Meridian, Boise and Eagle)

#### **About transportation funding**

These improvements will move to final design once funding becomes available. A recently completed study by the Forum on Transportation Investment determined Idaho has a \$200 million shortfall each year in meeting its transportation project needs. In addition, Idaho's population will increase more than 50 percent over the next 25 years, putting more demand on our system. This makes prioritization of needed projects a growing challenge.